

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 06805 091543Z

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9556

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DEPT FOR EB/OA AND PLEASE PASS CAB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, NL

SUBJ: DUTCH PRESS INTERVIEW OF CAB'S MENGES

1. SINCE THERE IS KEEN INTEREST HERE IN THE STATUS OF OUR TALKS WITH THE DUTCH ON CIVIL AVIATION, WE EXPECT SOME PRESS QUERIES ABOUT STATEMENTS MADE BY C.C. MENGES, DIRECTOR OF CAB'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DIVISION, IN DUTCH BI-WEEKLY FINANCIAL ECONOMIC MAGAZINE (FEM) DATED DEC 2. THE ARTICLE, BASED ON AN INTERVIEW WITH MENGES, CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING EXCERPT.

2. QUOTE: THE DIFFICULTY FOR KLM SEEMS TO BE THAT WHEN THE DUTCH MARKET SHOULD FORM THE BASIS, SMALL COUNTRIES CAN HARDLY MAINTAIN AN AIRLINE. MENGES: INNER QUOTE: THAT'S NOT TRUE. OUR OBJECTION IS THAT THE EXISTING AGREEMENT IS VIOLATED. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO REASON TO START NEW NEGOTIATIONS. WE ARE QUITE WILLING TO HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THE MARKET AND TO CONSIDER THE FACT THAT KLM'S INTERNATIONAL NETWORK GENERATES TRAFFIC FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC ROUTE. THIS SHOULD THEN BE DISCUSSED AND WILL LEAD TO ANOTHER SORT OF AGREEMENT THAN WE HAVE NOW. END INNER QUOTE. MENGES SAID THAT IF KLM WANTS THIS, HOLLAND SHOULD TAKE THE INITITIVE. AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T HAPPEN, THE PRESENT AGREEMENT SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT. WASHINGTON TOO WANTS THIS TO HAPPEN, HOWEVER, MEASURES TO ACHIEVE THIS WON'T TAKE PLACE UNTIL MAY OR UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 THE HA 06805 091543Z

JUNE. UNTIL THEN, MENGES THINKS THE US HAS ITS HANDS

FULL WITH PRIORITY NUMBER ONE: THE DISPUTE WITH ENGLAND.
END QUOTE.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE CURRENT GUIDANCE ON US PLANS
FOR NEGOTIATING WITH DUTCH AS BASIS FOR ANSWERING QUERIES
ARISING FROM FEM STORY.

MCCLOSKEY

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